

Published for the friends of "The President's Own"

# notes

January  
February



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# 2012 SHOWCASE SERIES

BY GUNNERY SERGEANT AMANDA SIMMONS

On Sunday, Jan. 8, "The President's Own" will begin its 2012 concert season, the Showcase Series, which runs through May. Nearly every week patrons across the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area will have the opportunity to hear one of the three groups that comprise "The President's Own": the Marine Band, Marine Chamber Orchestra, and Marine Chamber Ensembles.

Each ensemble has been diligently preparing exciting programs containing a full range of patriotic, classical, and contemporary selections. Highlights from January and February include a tribute to the presidents, celebrations of American composers, and the annual Concerto Competition. The complete season is available online at [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) or patrons may request a season brochure by calling (202) 433-5809.

## Marine Band

Keeping with an eight-year tradition, the Marine Band will launch the Showcase Series with the Sousa Season Opener at 2 p.m., Jan. 8, at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall in Fairfax, Va. Conducted by Colonel Michael J. Colburn, this program will look beyond the renowned marches by the 17th Director of the Marine Band and will celebrate all aspects of John Philip Sousa's musical vision.

"As any dedicated patron of 'The President's Own' can attest, Sousa was much more than just 'The March King,'" Col. Colburn notes. "He was a gifted conductor, arranger, and impresario."

In addition to featuring works traditionally performed by the Sousa Band, Col. Colburn has programmed Sousa's original suite *Camera Studies* and The Colonial Dames Waltzes. Sousa's suites are descriptive and picturesque. Although they have not historically been ranked among many orchestral suites of other major composers, many scholars maintain that some of Sousa's suites are brilliant compositions and deserve more frequent performance.

Sousa, Director of the Marine Band from 1880-92, originally composed The Colonial Dames Waltzes in 1885 for the Philadelphia department store Strawbridge and Clothier and originally titled it Wissahickon Waltz. He was disappointed with its limited distribution in the store's magazine so he revised the composition and renamed it The Colonial Dames Waltzes. The first edition of the waltzes with its new title appeared in the Ladies' Home Journal of April 1896, marking the fifth anniversary of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America organization.

Patrons can expect a more contemporary program at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 29, at Northern Virginia Community College's (NOVA) Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall in

Alexandria. "Made in America," conducted by Assistant Director Major Jason K. Fettig, will include a new transcription by Jay Bocook of Leonard Bernstein's Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront*. The 1954 movie starring Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint was Bernstein's only original film score and in 1955 he adapted the music into his own vision, a continuous 20-minute suite of symphonic music.

"Over the course of the 20th century to the present, the music of American composers has absorbed the inimitable qualities of America, from the rough-hewn images of our rural and urban landscapes and its diverse inhabitants to the most colorful aspects of our history and modern culture," Major Fettig said.

This all-American program will also feature two new concertos: *Southern Comforts* by Joel Puckett featuring violinist Staff Sergeant Sheng-Tsung Wang and Frank Ticheli's Clarinet Concerto with soloist Staff Sergeant Christopher Grant.

Through *Southern Comforts* Puckett expresses his fondest memories of growing up in the deep South, with movements titled: Faulkner; Ritual: Football and the Lord; Lamentation; and Mint Julep.

"The writing for the violin is very powerful and vivid, and fully takes advantage of the wide spectrum of the instrument's abilities and expressiveness," explains Staff Sgt. Wang. "With an abundance of double-stopping, glissando, and pizzicato, it's a fun but challenging work, and I'm really excited to transport the audience musically to the place the composer called home."

"Performing a new work such as the Concerto for Clarinet is exciting for the musician and their audience," Grant explains. "This concerto is a tribute by Frank Ticheli to the legendary American composers George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein. The concerto highlights the incredible range of the clarinet, and with its jazzy motifs the audience may find themselves dancing along with the soloist!"

Honoring Presidents is almost a daily occasion for Marine Band musicians. At 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 at NOVA "The

*Season continued on page 3*



SSgt Sheng-Tsung Wang

## WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



Recent appearances by “The President’s Own” at the White House include:

- Political Appointees Picnic
- Patent Bill Signing
- Presidential Remarks from the Rose Garden
- United Nations General Assembly Reception
- Back to School Speech
- Luncheon with Joint Chiefs of Staff Spouses
- National Science Foundation Event
- Hispanic Heritage Month Reception
- Senate Spouses Luncheon
- 2011 NCAA Champion Texas A&M University Women’s Basketball Team Visit
- 1985 NFL Champion Chicago Bears Visit
- Jumping Jacks at the White House Guinness World Records® Event
- State Dinner in Honor of the President of South Korea Lee Myung-bak
- Fall Garden Tour



Commandant of the Marine Corps General James F. Amos joined the trombone ranks between SSgt Daniel Brady (left) and GySgt Darren Bange as the band formed up at Congressional Cemetery Nov. 6 for the John Philip Sousa birthday wreath-laying ceremony. Photo credit Sgt. Ben J. Flores

## A CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO MUSIC EDUCATION

*By Staff Sergeant Brian Rust*

Four years ago, in conjunction with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) and the National Association for Music Education (formerly known as MENC), the Marine Band launched its inaugural Concerto Competition for high school musicians. Since its inception and through subsequent years, more than 500 high school students from across the United States have applied, vying for the solo opportunity with the band and the cash prize.

From the large pool of applications, seven finalists have been selected each year to perform during the final round in

**“If you think your chances of doing well in a competition are slim, go for it anyway. Never back away from a chance to push yourself closer to the next level.”**

2010 CO-WINNER MATTHEW GRIFFITH

front of an audience and panel of judges. To date, the competition has yielded a total of six winners, who each received a check for \$2,500 from the MCHF and the opportunity to perform live in concert with the Marine Band. It was the latter, performing with the band, that many of the winners say was the main highlight and most beneficial learning experience of the competition.

*Concerto continued on page 6*

## FEATURED DOWNLOADS



### JANUARY

#### March of the Month

March, “Powhatan’s Daughter”  
John Philip Sousa\*

#### Director’s Choice

Overture to *La forza del destino*  
Giuseppe Verdi/trans. Creator

### FEBRUARY

#### March of the Month

March, “Our Flirtations”  
John Philip Sousa\*

#### Featured Soloist

Zigeunerweisen, Opus 20  
Pablo de Sarasate/trans. Knox\*  
SSgt Jonathan Bisesi, xylophone soloist

\*Member, U.S. Marine Band

To download selections, visit the [Marine Band website, www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio\\_resources](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources), and click on Web Exclusives.



President's Own" will present "Hail to the Chief," a unique tribute to the Commanders in Chief. The first half of the concert will feature works that pay homage to presidents ranging from George Washington to John F. Kennedy and will include Sousa's Presidential Polonaise and Ronald Lo Presti's Elegy for a Young American. The second portion of the concert will be dedicated to a brand new transcription of Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner's Selections from *A White House Cantata*.

Taken from the 1976 Broadway-style musical titled *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, *A White House Cantata* takes listeners through American history from the viewpoint of the occupants of the Executive Mansion.

"The music is charming, engaging, varied, and uniquely American—truly Bernstein," observes Marine Band Staff Arranger Staff Sergeant Ryan Nowlin. "I think audiences will really enjoy hearing music from Bernstein that they may not have heard before."

The original excerpts from the cantata are for full orchestra, four vocal soloists, and full chorus; Nowlin has adapted the work for band and two vocalists in order to feature baritone Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Benneer and mezzo-soprano Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Omo. The cantata includes music about the selection of the capital city in "Ten Square Miles," Abigail Adams' stirring "Take Care of This House," and "The President Jefferson March," which makes a direct reference to the Marine Band and its unique role in supporting White House functions with music.

Departing America for France, Assistant Director Captain Michelle A. Rakers will conduct her first band concert of the season, "The French Connection," at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26, at NOVA. The program will include Darius Milhaud's *Suite française*, Opus 248, which was premièred by the Goldman Band in 1945; the movements are named after five French provinces and features popular melodies from these regions. In addition to works by

Sousa, Igor Stravinsky, and Maurice Ravel, the program will also contain one of Gershwin's best-known pieces, *An American in Paris*.

"In *An American in Paris* Gershwin creatively depicts the sounds and unique flavors he experienced during his time in the city, where he was also introduced to Stravinsky, Ravel, and Milhaud," Capt. Rakers explained.

## Marine Chamber Orchestra

The first Marine Chamber Orchestra concert of the season will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15 at NOVA and conducted by Col. Colburn. "Child's Play: Music Inspired by Childhood" will feature musical representations of a child's summer, a composer's love for his three-year-old daughter, and a toy shop where dolls magically come alive. The program is anchored by one of Ravel's most famous works, *Mother Goose*.

Ravel composed the work in 1908, originally as a duet for two pianos. He loved children, and he often entertained youngsters with fairy tales. It was these tales, rather than the Mother Goose nursery rhymes, that inspired this music. In 1911 he expanded and orchestrated *Mother Goose* for use as a ballet score, which is the version that will be featured on the program.

At 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 5, the Marine Chamber Orchestra will hold its second concert, "Voyage to Germany," conducted by Capt. Rakers at NOVA. The journey begins with Felix Mendelssohn's Overture to *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, composed in 1828, and then embarks on a trip to the 20th century with Richard Strauss' Second Horn Concerto of 1943 featuring Master Sergeant Amy Horn. The concert will conclude with Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 in B-flat.

## Marine Chamber Ensembles

The Marine Chamber Ensembles will host an Open House at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22, at John Philip Sousa Band Hall at

the Marine Barracks Annex in Washington, D.C. The program, coordinated by bass clarinetist Master Sergeant Jihoon Chang, will include classic works such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K. 546 and the progressive jazz of Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday." Following the performance the audience is invited to take a short tour of the Marine Band's rehearsal and administrative facility, which includes the Hall of Presidents Gallery. Light snacks will be served. Because of the popularity of this event, the hall fills quickly and the doors will close at capacity.

At 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12, the Marine Chamber Ensembles will return to Sousa Hall to perform a varied program that will include works by Paul Hindemith, Silvestre Revueltas, and Bohuslav Martinu.

"I'm hoping the audience will enjoy the catchy tunes, driving rhythms, and fascinating timbres that will be offered by these exciting ensembles," said saxophonist Master Sergeant Audrey Cupples, who coordinated the program. "I put Léo Delibes's Flower Suite from *Lakmé* on the program as a tribute to two of my mentors. The piece was arranged by my former teacher, Charles Gallagher, for Al Gallodoro and me to record. Gallodoro was a great saxophonist/clarinetist that I admired greatly. Unfortunately, he passed away before we were able to complete our project."

Also in February, the Marine Band will hold the final round of its 5th Annual Concerto Competition for high school students. Students from across the country will compete for a \$2,500 prize from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and a chance to solo with "The President's Own" later in the 2012 Showcase Series. The final round of the competition will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, in Sousa Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex. The event is free and open to the public.

Complete season information can be found in the season brochure. Request a brochure by calling (202) 433-5809 or visit [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil).

# CONCERT PROGRAMS

## MARINE BAND

2 pm | Sunday, Jan. 8

GMU Center for the Arts

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

### SOUSA SEASON OPENER

Bedrich Smetana/trans. Patterson\*  
Overture to *The Bartered Bride*

Carlo della Giacoma/rev. and adapt. Milone  
Fantasia on Themes from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Opus 83  
SSgt Joseph LeBlanc, clarinet soloist

John Philip Sousa\*  
The Colonial Dames Waltzes

Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari/trans. Patterson\*  
Suite from *Jewels of the Madonna*

John Philip Sousa\*  
*Camera Studies*

Luigi Arditi/trans. Patterson\*  
"Il Bacio"  
SSgt Sara Dell'omo, mezzo-soprano

Paul Dukas/trans. Chomel  
*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"\*

## MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 pm | Sunday, Jan. 15

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and  
Arts Center, NOVA Alexandria Campus

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

### CHILD'S PLAY

Sergei Prokofiev  
*A Summer Day*, Opus 65

Maurice Ravel  
*Mother Goose* (1911)

Claude Debussy/orch. Caplet  
*Children's Corner* (1910)

Gioachino Rossini/arr. Respighi/orch. Carr  
Suite from *La Boutique Fantasque*

## MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES AND OPEN HOUSE

2 pm | Sunday, Jan. 22

John Philip Sousa Band Hall  
Marine Barracks Annex

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/ed. Plath  
Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K. 546  
SSgt Sheng-Tsung Wang and  
SSgt Christopher Franke, violin  
SSgt Sarah Hart, viola  
SSgt Charlie Powers, cello

George Auric  
Trio for Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon  
SSgt Tessa Vinson, oboe  
MGySgt Ruth McDonald, clarinet  
MGySgt Roger Kantner, bassoon

Olivier Messiaen  
*Oiseaux exotiques* (1956)  
SSgt Steven Owen, conducting  
GySgt Elisabeth Plunk and SSgt Ellen Dooley, flute  
SSgt Tessa Vinson, oboe  
MSgt Christopher McFarlane, bassoon  
GySgt Michelle Urzynick, E-flat clarinet  
GySgt William Bernier and MSgt Jihoon Chang,  
clarinet, MSgt Jay Niepoetter, bass clarinet  
SSgt Brandon Eubank, trumpet  
GySgt Hilary Harding and SSgt Jennifer Paul, horn  
MSgt David Murray, MSgt Christopher Rose,  
GySgt Thomas Maloy, GySgt Glenn Paulson,  
SSgt Jonathan Bisesi and SSgt Michael Metzger,  
percussion

Gabriel Fauré  
*Pièce*  
SSgt Joseph DeLuccio, oboe  
MSgt Karen Grimsey, harp

Paul Nagel  
*Jive for Five*  
SSgt Benjamin Albright and  
SSgt Michael Warnick, trumpet  
SSgt Gabriel Gitman, horn  
GySgt Timothy Dugan, trombone  
SSgt Paul Mergen, tuba

Duke Ellington/arr. Abene  
"Come Sunday"  
SSgt Karen Johnson, violin  
GySgt Karl Johnson, bass trombone  
GySgt AnnaMaria Mottola, piano

Astor Piazzolla/arr. Bragato  
Tangos for Piano Trio  
SSgt Sheng-Tsung Wang, violin  
MGySgt Marcio Botelho, cello  
GySgt AnnaMaria Mottola, piano

## MARINE BAND

2 pm | Sunday, Jan. 29

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and  
Arts Center, NOVA Alexandria Campus

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

### MADE IN AMERICA

Joseph Willcox Jenkins  
*American Overture for Band*

Joel Puckett  
*Southern Comforts* (2008)  
SSgt Sheng-Tsung Wang, violin soloist

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Bocook  
Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront*

Scott McAllister  
"More Cowbell!" from *Popcopy* (2010)

Frank Ticheli  
Clarinet Concerto (2011)  
SSgt Christopher Grant, soloist

Aaron Copland/trans. Patterson\*  
Finale from *Symphony No. 3*

Randol Alan Bass  
*A New Birth of Freedom* (2009)  
GySgt Kevin Bennear, narrator

## MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 pm | Sunday, Feb. 5

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and  
Arts Center, NOVA Alexandria Campus

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

### VOYAGE TO GERMANY

Felix Mendelssohn  
*Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage Overture*, Opus 27

Richard Strauss  
Horn Concerto No. 2 in E-flat, TrV 283  
MSgt Amy Horn, soloist

Ludwig van Beethoven  
Symphony No. 4 in B-flat, Opus 60

\*Member, U.S. Marine Band

\*Available for download at [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil)

## MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

2 pm | Sunday, Feb. 12

**John Philip Sousa Band Hall**  
**Marine Barracks Annex**

Jacques Bouffier

Trio in D, Opus 7, No. 2

MSgt John Norton, SSgt Gina Fouch,  
and MSgt Deborah Hanson-Gerber, clarinet

Paul Hindemith

Plöner Musiktag, 1932: "Morgenmusik"

GySgt Timothy Dugan and  
SSgt Preston Hardage, trombone  
SSgt Daniel Brady, bass trombone  
GySgt Franklin Crawford, tuba

Léo Delibes/arr. Gallagher

Flower Duet from *Lakmé*

MSgt Audrey Cupples, soprano saxophone  
GySgt Steven Longoria, alto saxophone  
GySgt Erika Sato  
and SSgt Sheng-Tsung Wang, violin  
SSgt Sarah Hart, viola  
MSgt Diana Fish, cello

Silvestre Revueltas

*Homage to Federico Garcia Lorca* (1935)

SSgt Christopher Franke and  
SSgt Sheng-Tsung Wang, violin  
MSgt Aaron Clay, bass  
GySgt Russell Wilson, piano  
GySgt Elisabeth Plunk, piccolo  
GySgt Vicki Gotcher, E-flat clarinet  
GySgt Brian Turnmire  
and SSgt Jeffrey Strong, trumpet  
GySgt Timothy Dugan, trombone  
MGySgt Cameron Gates, tuba  
MGySgt Mark Latimer, percussion  
MGySgt Andrew Schuller, conducting

Bohuslav Martinů

*La Revue de Cuisine* (1927)

SSgt Samantha Angelo, clarinet  
MSgt Christopher McFarlane, bassoon  
SSgt Brandon Eubank, trumpet  
SSgt Chaerim Smith, violin  
SSgt Charlie Powers, cello  
GySgt Russell Wilson, piano



Marine Band vocalists SSgt Sara Dell'Omo and GySgt Kevin Bennear will perform Leonard Bernstein's *Selections from A White House Cantata* at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 at NOVA.

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Sexteto místico (1917)

GySgt Elisabeth Plunk, flute  
SSgt Tessa Vinson, oboe  
GySgt Steven Temme, alto saxophone  
GySgt Brian Turnmire, guitar  
MSgt Karen Grimsey, harp  
GySgt Russell Wilson, celeste

Bill Chase/arr. Coleman

"Bochawa"

SSgt Brad Weil, GySgt Daniel Orban, GySgt Scott  
Gearhart, MSgt Christian Ferrari, and GySgt Brian  
Turnmire, trumpet  
SSgt Ryan McGeorge, electric euphonium  
GySgt AnnaMaria Mottola, keyboard  
MSgt Aaron Clay, bass  
SSgt Michael Metzger, drums

## MARINE BAND

2 pm | Sunday, Feb. 19

**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and**  
**Arts Center, NOVA Alexandria Campus**

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

## HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Francis Hopkinson/arr. Goldman

Washington's Grand March

John Philip Sousa\*

Presidential Polonaise\*

Ronald Lo Presti

Elegy for a Young American

William H. Woodin/arr. Lake

March, "Franklin D. Roosevelt"\*

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Nowlin\*

*Selections from A White House Cantata*  
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano  
GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

## CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALS

2 pm | Saturday, Feb. 25

**John Philip Sousa Band Hall**  
**Marine Barracks Annex**

## MARINE BAND

2 pm | Sunday, Feb. 26

**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and**  
**Arts Center, NOVA Alexandria Campus**

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

John Philip Sousa\*/ed. Rogers

"The King of France" from *Three Quotations*

Dana Wilson

*Liquid Ebony* (2005)

MGySgt Elizabeth Matera, clarinet soloist

Darius Milhaud

*Suite française*, Opus 248

Igor Stravinsky/ed. Craft

*Symphonies of Wind Instruments* (1920)

Maurice Ravel/trans. Knox\*/text Morand

*Song Cycle, Don Quichotte à Dulcinée*

GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

George Gershwin/trans. Hoshina

*An American in Paris*

**Programs are subject to change.**

**Concerts are free; no tickets required.**

*Pre-concert ensembles will return in 2012, performing brief and entertaining programs in the lobby 45 minutes prior to select Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra concerts. "The President's Own" also will continue Post-concert chats, a series of conversations with the conductor, soloists, and guest artists in the lobby following most concerts.*

## Music in the High Schools

The Marine Band will offer its free Music in the High Schools (MITHS) educational program to high schools in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region from Feb. 13 to March 16, 2012. Initiated by Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn, the annual program gives local music students the opportunity to receive educational clinics from Marine Band members. To schedule your MITHS program or get additional information, please contact Ms. Vadya Dillon at (703) 614-2267 or vadya.dillon@usmc.mil.

## BAND MEMBER NEWS

*Concerto continued from page 2*

All but one of the winners have since graduated high school and are now attending premier music schools and pursuing careers in music, including The Juilliard School in New York, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in New York, Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

While a majority of the winners continued on to place or win in other competitions, participate in notable music festivals, and perform with prestigious symphony orchestras, many of them credit the Marine Band's Concerto Competition as an important step in their musical lives.

"This competition helped open many doors in my musical career," said flutist Jennifer Zhou, the 2009 winner and an applied flute performance major at the Eastman School of Music. "Being able to perform with the Marine Band was an unbelievable experience and opportunity. It helped me gain a sense of how a soloist should interact with the professional ensemble and conductor." She added that the opportunity to work with principal flute Master Gunnery Sgt. Betsy Hill, whom

she considers one of her top role models, was amazing and really her favorite part of the entire event.

Similarly, 2010 co-winner clarinetist Matthew Griffith stated that "being able to meet and perform with such talented musicians in a high-level ensemble was an amazing experience and helped me gain more confidence in my playing abilities."

"Winning a competition as prestigious as this one helped strengthen my résumé when I applied to colleges and other auditions," he added. Currently, Griffith is pursuing a double major in music and computer science at Yale University.

Many of the winners agree that while they practiced diligently in preparation for the competition, they were each somewhat surprised and nonplussed when they were announced as the winner. "I thought that it was a competition that was impossible for me to even make the final round," said bassoonist Catherine Chen, co-winner of the 2010 competition and a student at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Perhaps the most shocked of all was 2008 co-winner oboist Timothy Gocklin, currently a music performance major at the University of Michigan. "It took me a couple seconds to

### STAFF LINES



**MSgt John Abbracciamento**  
*Trumpet/cornet Player*

**BIRTHDAY**  
June 21

**HOMETOWN**  
Valley Stream, N.Y.

**FAMILY**  
Wife: Roxanne  
Children: Paul, 15;  
Téa, 12

**JOINED THE BAND**  
November 1992

**PETS**  
Scout (Australian Shepherd/spaniel mix),  
Buster (buff tabby)

**PET PEEVES**  
D.C. traffic, having my time wasted, the designated hitter

**EDUCATION**  
New England Conservatory of Music in Boston,  
B.M. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor,  
M.M. from Mannes College of Music in New York

**WALTER MITTY FANTASY**  
Playing center field for the New York Yankees

**BOOKS AT BEDSIDE**  
The New York Times and whatever Roxanne has on her Kindle

**SELF-PORTRAIT**  
Impatient, truthful, gregarious, sarcastic

**FAVORITE MOVIE**  
Depending on my mood, either "The Godfather" or "Young Frankenstein"

**WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE**  
Robert DeNiro, but if he's too busy, [percussionist SSgt] Mike Metzger

**FAVORITE SAYING**  
"Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative." —Oscar Wilde

**BEST-KEPT SECRET**  
Voted Fall Festival King and Best Dressed my senior year in high school

**FAVORITE FOODS**  
Veal parmigiana, ravioli (especially at Joe Abbracciamento's Restaurant in Queens, N.Y.), cannoli, black and white cookie

**HOBBIES**  
Pilates and photography

**BAD HABIT**  
I watch SportsCenter when I practice

**PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED**  
Vienna, Austria, with Roxanne

**THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR**  
Beer, peanut butter, milk

**MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS**  
My parents

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND**  
Orpheus Chamber Orchestra in New York and substitute trumpet with the New York Philharmonic

**INSPIRATION**  
My kids

**LUXURY DEFINED**  
Season tickets for every Major League Baseball team

**FAVORITE PIECES OF MUSIC**  
"Thunder Road" by Bruce Springsteen, "I've Just Seen a Face" by The Beatles, and Adagio from Franz Schubert's String Quintet in C

**LAST WORD**  
"SEDAGIVE!?"

**MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN THE BAND**  
Playing "Taps" at the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., May 2004

**GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT**  
Convincing Roxanne that marrying me wasn't such a bad idea.





2010 competition winners Catherine Chen and Matthew Griffith

comprehend what Colonel Colburn announced," he said of his name being called as a winner. "Seeing the look on my mother's face told me that what I had heard was true. Never in my life or in my parent's lives did we think that I would be doing anything like winning national competitions."

Gocklin credits the Marine Band for helping him gain an interest in playing the oboe in the first place. As a sixth grader, he attended a Marine Band concert and was infatuated with the "funny black stick sounding much like a tiny set of bagpipes." Gocklin approached his band director the next day and asked if there was an oboe he could try out and from that day on he was hooked.

Although many of the winners felt that trying to win the Marine Band's Concerto Competition was a daunting task, each has also experienced firsthand that anything is possible. Griffith offers the following advice to high school students who may feel the way he once did: "If you think your chances of doing well in a competition are slim, go for it anyway. Never back away from a chance to push yourself closer to the next level."

Zhou added, "Winning does not define your value in comparison to other musicians. Winning is when you are blown away by your own performance."

Several new competitors will have the same opportunity to push themselves to the next level as they perform in the final round of the 2012 Concerto Competition at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25 at John Philip Sousa Band Hall located in the Marine Barracks Annex at 7th & L Streets, SE, Washington, D.C. The final round is free and open to the public and will feature a panel of judges consisting of Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn, Assistant Directors Major Jason K. Fettig and Captain Michelle A. Rakers, and guest judge Dr. Terry Austin, Director of Bands at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. A reception with light refreshments will immediately follow the performances. For more information on the Concerto Competition, visit [www.marineband.usmc.mil/whats\\_new/concertocompetition.htm](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil/whats_new/concertocompetition.htm).

## BAND MEMBER NEWS

### NEW MEMBER

Percussionist **Staff Sergeant David Constantine** of Beaverton, Ore., attended the University of Oregon in Eugene where he received a bachelor of music degree in percussion performance in 2003 and a master of music degree in percussion performance in 2005. He is currently pursuing his doctor of music degree in percussion performance from Indiana University in Bloomington. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Constantine performed with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra in New York and the Oregon Coast Music Festival Orchestra of Coos Bay. He also served as principal timpani with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and Terre Haute Symphony of Indiana.



### VACANCY

"The President's Own" announces auditions for:  
**Co-principal Oboe: March 5-6**

For information contact:  
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